

THE XII
HISTORY
OF THE
Noble Marquess



Printed for *F. Clarke, W. Thackeray, and
T. Passinger: 1686.*

THE
HISTORY
OF THE

Old England



ed for F. Clarke. W. Thack
T. Paffinger: 1880.

The Pleasant and Sweet

HISTORY

O F

Patient Grissel.

Shewing how she from a poor mans Daughter
came to be a great Lady in *France*, being
a pattern for all Vertuous Women.

Translated out of Italian.



Printed for I. Clarke, W. Thackeray, and T. P.



The Pleasant and sweet

History of *Patient Grissel*;

Shewing how she from a poor Man's Daughter, came to be a great Lady in *France*, being a pattern for all Vertuous Women.

C H A P. I.

How, and in what place the Noble Marquesse was dwelling.

IN the Countie of Salusa, which lyeth near Italy and France, there liv'd a Noble and Worthy Prince Named Gaultier, Marquesse, and Lord of Salusa, a Man of such vertues, that the world did ring of; beloved of his Subjects, for his good parts, that before his days or since, was very few the like, for the continual care of his Subjects good, and they in their dutifullness, sought to outstrip him in love; from his Youth, his only exercise was Hunting, wherein he took such delight, that nothing then was

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more pleasant unto him; which, the Subjects Loyalty to the worthy Prince, in their carefulness, that such excellent benefits should not fail to want of Issue; entreating him by humble Petition to Marry, that from his Loins their Children might enjoy the like happiness. This Speech thus spoke to the Prince, didde such love and affection into his mind, that most Graciously he made them answer; That when it should please God that he should see one that he could love, he most willingly would follow their good and honest desires, which: This Answer gave them such content, that they prayed earnestly to see that day.

CHAP. II.

Of the good and honest Life of fair Grisset, and her Old Father

Paricola:

Near unto the famous City of Saluse, was a poor Village named Cline, in the way going to a great and spacious Forrest, where the Noble Marquels used daily his Pleasure in Hunting; the poorer sort got their Li-
ving,

bing, some by Spinning, and some by
Carding, others by keeping of Sheep,
amongst the rest of the Inhabitants,
there was an Old Man named Janicola,
whose Wife being dead, he left him a
Daughter named Grisfel, who by the
Countrie manner, was named the fair.
These two lived contentedly together,
her aged Father goes to get Wood for
fire, the Maid makes his Bed, gets his
breakfast ready, against he comes home,
dresses his Sheep unto the Common,
sets her House in order, and falls to her
ordinary Work of Spinning: when
the Old Man comes home, he sees his
Dear, makes much of him, shews all
the Obedience that may be to the aged
Man; he in requitment of her Love,
as an encouragement to all obedient chil-
dren, pours out his hearty Prayers
in her behalf, praying the Almighty
God to bless her, and to give her that
happines which belongs unto so good a
Child: no doubt but his Petition was
heard, for God gave a Blessing to her,
as you may hear by the happy coming
of the Marquess that way, which may
seem suddenly after.

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CHAP. III.

How the Marquess of Salusa riding a
Hunting, fell in love with
the fair Griff.

A Noble Marquess,
As he did ride a Hunting

hard

of Patient Giffel.

hard by a Forrest side :

A fair and comely Maiden

As she did sit a spinning

his gentle eye espy'd :

Most fair and lovely,

And of comely Face was she,

although in simple attire,

She sung full sweetly :

With pleasant voice melodiously,

which set the Lords heart on fire,

The more he lookt the more he might

Beauty bryd his hearts delight,

And to this Dathio'el

then he went with speed :

God speed (qd. he) thou famous flower

Fair Mistress of this homely Bower,

Where love and vertue

dwells with sweet content :

With comely gesture

And modest mild behaviour

she bids him welcome then,

She entertain'd him

In faithfull friendly manner,

and all his Gentlemen :

The Noble Parquels

In's heart felt such a flame,

which set his senses all at strife,

Quoth

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Quoth he faire Maiden,
Shew me soon what is your name,
I mean to make thee my Wife.
Grissel is my name (quoth she)
Far unfit for your degree,
A silly Maiden
and of parents poor:
Nay Grissel thou art rich, he said,
A vertuous faire and comely maid,
Grant me thy love,
and I will ask no more.

C H A P. IV.

How the *Marquess* married faire *Grissel*,
and how the Lords desired him
to put her away, because she
was of so mean a blood.

AT length she consented
And being both contented
they married were with speed.
Her country Kuster
Was turn'd to Silk and Welver,
as to her state agreed,
And when that she
Was trimly ticed in the same,
her beauty shin'd most bright,
Far staining every other

Faire

of Patient Grissel.

Fair and princely dame
that did appear in light.
Many envied her therefore,
Because she was of Parents poor,
And twixt her Lord and she
great strife did raise:
Some said this, and some said that,
And some did call her beggers' brat
And to her Lord
they would her oft dispraise.

O noble Marquesse,
Durst they, why dost thou wrong us
thus basely for to wed,
Who might have gotten
An honourable Lady
into your princely bed,
Who will not now
Your noble issue soon deride
which shall hereafter be born,
That are of blood so base
Born by the mothers side,
the which shall bring them in scorn
But her therefore quite away,
And take to you a Lady gay,
Whereby your Linage
may renowned be;
Thus every day they seemed to prate
That

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That malic'd Grissels good estate
Who all this while
took it patiently.

C H A P. V.

How the Noble Marquesse had two
Children by *Patient Grissel*, how
he sent for them, and told
her they must be mur-
dered, and of her
Patience.

When that the Marquesse
Wid see that they were bent
against his faithfull wife
Whom he most dearly,
Tenderly and intirely,
beloved as his life :
Spinding in secret
For to try her patient heart,
thereby her foes for to disgrace
Thinking to shew her
A hard discourteous part,
that they might pity her case.
Great wily child the Lady was,
And at the last it came to pass,
Two goodly Children
at one birth she had
A Son and daughter God had sent
which did her mother well content

And

Of Patient Grissel.

And which did make
their fathers heart full glad,
Great Royal feasting
Was at these Childrens Christnings
and Princely Triumph made,
Six weeks together,
All Nobles that came thither,
were entertain'd and said :
And when that all the
Pleasant sporting quite was done,
The Marques a messenger sent
For his young daughter
And his pretty smiling son :
declaring his full intent
How that the Babes must murdered be
For so the marques did decree :
Come let me have
the Children, then he said
With that fair Grissel wept full sore
She wring her hands and said no more,
My Gracious Lord
shall have his will obey'd

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CHAP. VI.

Of the great sorrow that *Patient*
Grissel made for her Children.

She took the Babes
Even from the Nursing Cuddles;
between her tender arms;
She often wishes
With many sorrowful kisses
that she might ease their hart
Farewel, farewel,
A thousand times my children dear,
never shall I see you again;
'Tis long of me
Your sad and woful mother here
for whose sake both must be slain
Had I been born of Royal Race,
You might have liv'd in happy case,
But dye
in chains:
of death, quoth she,
Babes to thee,
her
express,

of Patient Grisſel.

he bore them hence with speed,
Who in ſecret ſent them
Unto a noble Lady
to be brought up indeed :
Then to fair Griſſel
With a heavy heart he goes,
where ſhe ſat mildly all alone,

A pleaſant geſture,
And a lovely look ſhe ſhew'd,
as if no grief ſhe had known.
Now, he, ſays ſhe ſhould not be ſo ſlow,
What thinks fair Griſſel of the ſame
Sweet Griſſel ſhould
Declare thy mind to me
Sith you my Lord have ſaid ſo truly it,
Does Griſſel think ſhe ſhall be
Worth your hand and mine
at your command will be.

C H A P. VII.

How Patient Griſſel was parted
the Noble Marquis, and her
Father again, and of a ge-
riage was prepared a
ſecond match of

Marriage.

Of nobles muſſing
Fair Griſſel at

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no joy can haue
e banisht
my Court and presence
Iustly crave:
strip
ly Garments all,
rest to me

of Patient-Griseels

Instead of Blisse and purest Pall
now all thy cloathing must be

My Lady thou must be no more

For I thy L. which grieves

The poorest life

must now content thy

A Goat to thee I have

Thee to maintain

Against my will

such great loss

When gentle

Did hear

the tear

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my Lord a parting kiss
try eyes
my dear, said she.

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of Patient Grissel,

And at this time through
All the Land the speeches went
the Marques should married be,
Unto a Noble Lady
& to the same all parties did agree
The Marques sent for Grissel fair,
The Bride Bed chamber to prepare
That nothing therein
might be found awry;
the Bride was with her Brother come
which was great joy to all and some,
But Grissel took all this
most patiently.

And in the morning
When as they should be wedded
her patience there was try'd,
Grissel was charged
Her self in friendly manner
for to attire the Bride:
Most willingly
She gave consent to do the same
the Bride in habery was dyest
And presently
The Noble Marques thither came,
with all his Lords at his Request
Grissel I will ask of thee
his match thou wilt agree

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Methinks thy looks
are waxed wondrous coy
Wish that they all began to smile;
And Grissel she reply'd the while,
God send Lord Marquess
many years of joy.

C H A P. IX.

How the *Marquess* being moved with
her patience, gave her two Chil-
dren, were friends, and after
lived in peace.

The Marquess was moved
to see his best beloved,
Thus patient in distress,
He stept unto her,
And by the hand he took her,
these words he did express:
Thou art the Bride,
And all the Brides I mean to have,
these two thine own children be.
The youthful Lady
On her knees did blessing trade,
her Brother as well as she.
And you that envy her estate
Whom I have chosen to my mate

of Patient Grissel.

Now blush for shame
and honor vertuous life,
The Chronicles of lasting fame,
Shall evermore extol the same,
Of patient Grissel
my most constant wife.

C H A P. X.

Of the great feast that was made for
Patient Grissel and her Chil-
dren, and old Janicola.

The Lords and Gentlemen being
astonished, looking one upon another,
and seeing no remedy, but that the No-
ble Marques had set an unremovable
love upon her, besought her to pardon
them of their envy towards her, and to
take them into her favour, which she
with modest behaviour promised to do:
The Noble Marques seeing all in peace,
ordained a great and sumptuous feast,
where Patient Grissel sat Mistress: the
Marques on her right hand, and on her
left hand her aged Father Old Janicola,
her two Children between them both,
the Lords and Gentlemen doing them
service, this Feast continued fourteen
days, to the comfort of the Commons.

When

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When this Solemn Feast was ended, the Marquesse to shew his love to his Grissel, made her father one of his Counsel, and Governour of his Palace, where for many years he lived in the love of the whole Court. The Noble Marquesse and the fair Grissel lived almost thirty years, saw their Childrens Children, and then dyed Beloved and bewailed of all their Subjects.

C H A P: XI.

The Authors perswasion to all Women in general.

THUS you may see by this History, you that are Women, the great good which come by Patience and Humility; for had this Woman been of a Churlish and Crabbed Disposition, she had lost that great Estate which she had: and besides, the happy love of a most Worthy and loving Husband; therefore ye Women, as ye are helpers for Men, and was so created for that use, give no distaste unto your loving Husbands, and Men likewise be not bitter to your Wives, for the World hath not many Grissels,

of Patient Grissel.

Grissels, for a Man and Wife living
lovingly and peaceably in this World,
shall Dye with a good Conscience, and
enjoy the happiness of the World to
come, which shall have no end.

